

School decision comes to vote

Balto. Co. school board due to choose Tuesday about closing on Jewish holidays

By Liz Bowie
The Baltimore Sun

The Baltimore County school board is scheduled to decide Tuesday whether to keep schools open on two of the most important holy days in the Jewish calendar. If board members decide to do so, it would be the first time in about two decades that students would be required to attend school on those days.

An advisory committee has presented the board with two options for the 2018-19 school year. The committee has recommended the board choose the alternative that keeps schools open on the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah, which next year begins at sundown Sept. 9, and Yom Kippur, which starts at sundown Sept. 18.

School board members say they don't know how the vote will go. Board President Edward J. Gilliss said he has not polled fellow members.

School board member David Uhlfelder supports keeping schools closed on the Jewish holidays, as has been the practice since the mid-1990s.

"The truth of the matter is it is not a religious issue," he said. "It is a question of economics."

He estimates it will cost the school system between \$300,000 and \$500,000 to pay for the substitute teachers that would be needed to fill in for Jewish teachers who took the days off.

"How much is it worth to you to keep them open?" he asked. "Are you willing to spend the money?"

"If you don't care about the \$400,000, then you keep the schools open. If you do, See **SCHOOLS**, page 9

TODAY'S WEATHER

WARM WITH CLOUDS AND RAIN

69

HIGH

40

LOW



Tuesday: cooler, a shower **SPORTS PG 12**



JAY JANNER/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Investigators work at the scene of Sunday's mass shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, about 35 miles southeast of San Antonio. The attack was the largest mass shooting ever to occur in the state.

At least 26 dead in Texas shooting

Gunman found dead several miles from massacre

By Matt Pearce
and John Savage
Los Angeles Times

At least 26 people were shot and killed Sunday when a 26-year-old gunman dressed in black opened fire at a Baptist church in a small town near San Antonio.

An additional 20 people were injured in the attack, which happened as a church service was underway at First Baptist Church in the town of Sutherland Springs, police said.

Freeman Martin, regional director of the Texas Department of Public Service, said the suspect, wearing a tactical vest, initially began firing with an AR-15-style



NICK WAGNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mona Rodriguez holds her son, J Anthony Hernandez, 12, during a candlelight vigil for the victims. "I know at least five people who were killed," said one neighbor.

Ruger rifle outside the church at about 11:20 a.m., then entered the church and continued firing.

After the gunman left the church, a local resident drew his own weapon and engaged the suspect, who dropped his weapon. It appears that two local residents then pursued the suspect by car into an adjacent county, where the suspect ran off the road and was later found dead in his vehicle with multiple weapons inside, Martin said.

"At this time, we don't know if it was a self-inflicted wound or if he was shot by our local resident," Martin said.

Johnnie Langendorff was one of those who gave chase. He said he

See **SHOOTING**, page 9

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

- NATION

ROSS' TIES: Documents show that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has a stake in a company that does business with a gas producer partly owned by the son-in-law of Russian President Vladimir Putin. **NEWS PG 6**

TRIP BEGINS: President Donald J. Trump opens a grueling and consequential first trip to Asia by telling tells Japanese business leaders that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is "a terrific person," then assails Japan for years of unfair trade. **NEWS PG 4**

TAX TALK: House Speaker Paul Ryan says Republicans are discussing whether their tax plan should include a repeal of the Affordable Care Act's requirement that people have insurance coverage or face a penalty. **NEWS PG 6**
- MARYLAND

'PEOPLE DO CARE': Baltimoreans gather at a street corner in the Abell neighborhood Sunday night to light candles in the memory of each of the 301 people who have been killed in the city so far this year. **NEWS PG 2**



Ravens lose, 23-20

Titans running back Derrick Henry (22) eludes Ravens rush linebacker Terrell Suggs to score on a 1-yard run that put host Tennessee ahead 16-6 in the second quarter. The Ravens enter their bye week with a 4-5 record. **COVERAGE, SPORTS PG 1**

Competition taking bite of area eateries

Several notable restaurants have shut this year; owners, experts disagree on why

usual, but that's where the consensus ends: They blame a multitude of factors, from increasing labor costs to high crime rates in the city — amid cutthroat competition that has become more heated.

Sascha Wolhandler retired this summer after closing and selling Sascha's 527 Cafe in Mount Vernon.

"It is the culinary moment, and so people want to open restaurants, and so the competition is fiercer than ever," she said. "That only means you've got to step up your game. You're only as good as the very last french fry you've served."

Neither state nor national restaurant industry associations could quantify closures, but other data point to a decline in area eateries. Vacancy rates in Greater Baltimore for small commercial real estate spaces that house or have housed restaurants have been higher than usual this

See **RESTAURANTS**, page 9

inside

bridge sports 9 • lottery news 3 • horoscopes news 7 • obituaries news 8 • opinion news 10
puzzles sports 9, 11 • tonight on tv sports 11 • comics sports 10 • classified sports 8



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